Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 23 - Q3

Resilience and Food Security

Goal Leader(s):

Dina Esposito, Acting Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

Goal Overview

Goal statement

- Facilitate inclusive, resilient growth in the agriculture and food system to sustainably reduce poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. By September 30, 2023, annual sales by assisted farms and firms in the agriculture and food system will exceed the pre-pandemic level of $3 billion.

Problem to Be Solved

- The goal of the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative is to sustainably reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and Putin's war in Ukraine threaten to erase years of food security progress. As a result of the pandemic, extreme poverty is rising globally for the first time in two decades, while global inequality is also on the rise. The World Bank estimates that 678 million people were living in extreme poverty in 2022, an estimated 89 million more people than expected pre-pandemic. In addition, the World Bank projects limited progress on extreme poverty over the coming decade, estimating that more than 568 million will remain extremely poor as of 2030.

What Success Looks Like

- Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth provides many pathways to poverty reduction, generating jobs and reliable incomes directly through the agriculture and food system and indirectly through multiplier effects across the broader economy, and increases access to safe and nutritious foods.
- In addition to the goals laid out later in the APG, FTF will make critical contributions to 20 percent reductions in poverty and stunting over the next five years in the areas where FTF works.

**FAO Early Modeling Estimate (March 25, 2022*

Goal target(s)

Achievement statement		Key indicator(s)	Quantify progress			Frequency
By…	**We will…**	**Name of indicator**	**Target value (End of FY 2023)**	**Starting value (See notes)**	**Current value**	**Update cycle**
9/30/23	Contribute to increasing annual sales by assisted farms and firms in the agriculture and food system above pre-pandemic levels of $3 billion.	Value of annual sales of producers and firms in the agriculture and food system receiving U.S. Government (USG) assistance	$3,100,000,000	$1,683,248,584[1]	$5,749,119,490	Annual - Final actual available in Q3
9/30/23	Contribute to inclusive agriculture-related financing.	Average value per capita of agriculture-related financing received by females as a percentage of the value per capita of agriculture-related financing received by males as a result of USG assistance	75%*	47%[2]	47%	Annual - Final actual available in Q3
9/30/23	Contribute to learning through FTF evaluations.	Number of FTF Evaluations Completed per quarter	2 per quarter	3[3]	8[4]	Quarterly - Available one week after end of the quarter

*USAID updated the FY 2023 target by using an improved calculation methodology that excludes reports with partial data. The FY 2023 target is preliminary.

[1] The starting value for this indicator is from FY 2018.

[2] The Starting value for this indicator is from FY 2022.

[3] The Starting value for this indicator is from FY 2021 Q4.

[4] The current value for this indicator is the total from the most recent quarter, not a rolling total from the current fiscal year.

Goal Team

RFS Front Office

- Dina Esposito, Acting Assistant to the Administrator, RFS
- Mia Beers, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, RFS
- Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist

RFS Center for Agriculture Led Growth

- Jennifer Tikka, Director
- Steve Morin, Market Systems and Finance Division Chief
- Julie March, Production Systems Division Chief
- Regina Eddy, Acting Input Systems Division Chief

RFS Office of Country Support

- Rick Somarriba, Director
- Lauren Ruth, Africa Division Chief
- Sally Rey, Latin America and Asia Division Chief

RFS Center for Resilience

- Jami Montgomery, Acting Director
- Jessie Anderson, Acting Resilient Communities and Systems Division Chief
- Kathryn Stahlberg, Acting Resilient Livelihoods and Markets Division Chief

RFS Center for Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Jeffrey Goldberg, Director
- Vacant, Global Strategy and Leadership Division Chief
- Sam Huston, Water and Sanitation Technical Services Division Chief

RFS Center for Nutrition

- Carol Wilson, Director
- Kelly Cormier, Food Safety Division Chief
- Rebecca Egan, Acting Nutrition Technical Services Division Chief

Policy Analysis and Engagement

- Amy Sink Davies, Director
- Chris Hillbruner, Analysis and Learning Division Chief
- Chris Shepherd-Pratt, Policy Division Chief
- Vacant, Strategic Engagement Division Chief

Program Office

- George Rowland, Acting Director
- Theresa Stattel, Budget Execution Division Chief
- Bonita Jones, Strategy Division Chief
- Meredith Soule, Inclusive Development Division Chief

Goal Strategies

Key Strategies:

- Strengthen inclusive, productive, and profitable food and agriculture systems, especially for small-scale producers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs);

- Strengthen and expand access to markets and trade, increase market participation, and increase movement, availability, and affordability of agricultural inputs, goods, services, and safe, nutritious foods;

- Increase representation, employment, and entrepreneurship, especially for the landless, extreme poor, women, youth, and marginalized or underrepresented groups; and

- Drive sustainable productivity increases while promoting nature-positive impacts on natural resources and the environment.

Goal Strategies

External factors:

- **Climate Change**: Climate change is both a stressor and risk multiplier, leading to increased crop failures, water insecurity, depletion of natural resources, and more frequent and extreme weather events. Farmers face higher temperatures that stress crops and livestock, as well as make agricultural labor more difficult and dangerous. In addition, there are longer droughts, unpredictable rains, and warming oceans affecting fish stocks. Agricultural and food systems contribute approximately 21-37 percent of global human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. USAID has mainstreamed evidence-based climate adaptation approaches across the refreshed Global Food Security Strategy 2022-2026's (GFSS-R) three objectives to mitigate this threat and accelerate and protect progress.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic's Long-Term Effects**: In addition to the immediate health repercussions of COVID-19 itself and its burden on overwhelmed health systems, the secondary effects of COVID-19 include disruptions to the key components of the food system that allow for continuous, sustainable access to nutritious foods. Efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted access to food, compromised nutrition, eliminated jobs and shut down entire sections of economies, including agriculture. COVID-19 pushed 97 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, and is deepening the gender poverty gap as women's livelihoods are disproportionately impacted. USAID will use our existing FTF infrastructure to mitigate the near, medium and long term secondary economic impacts of the pandemic by ensuring food and market systems continue to function.

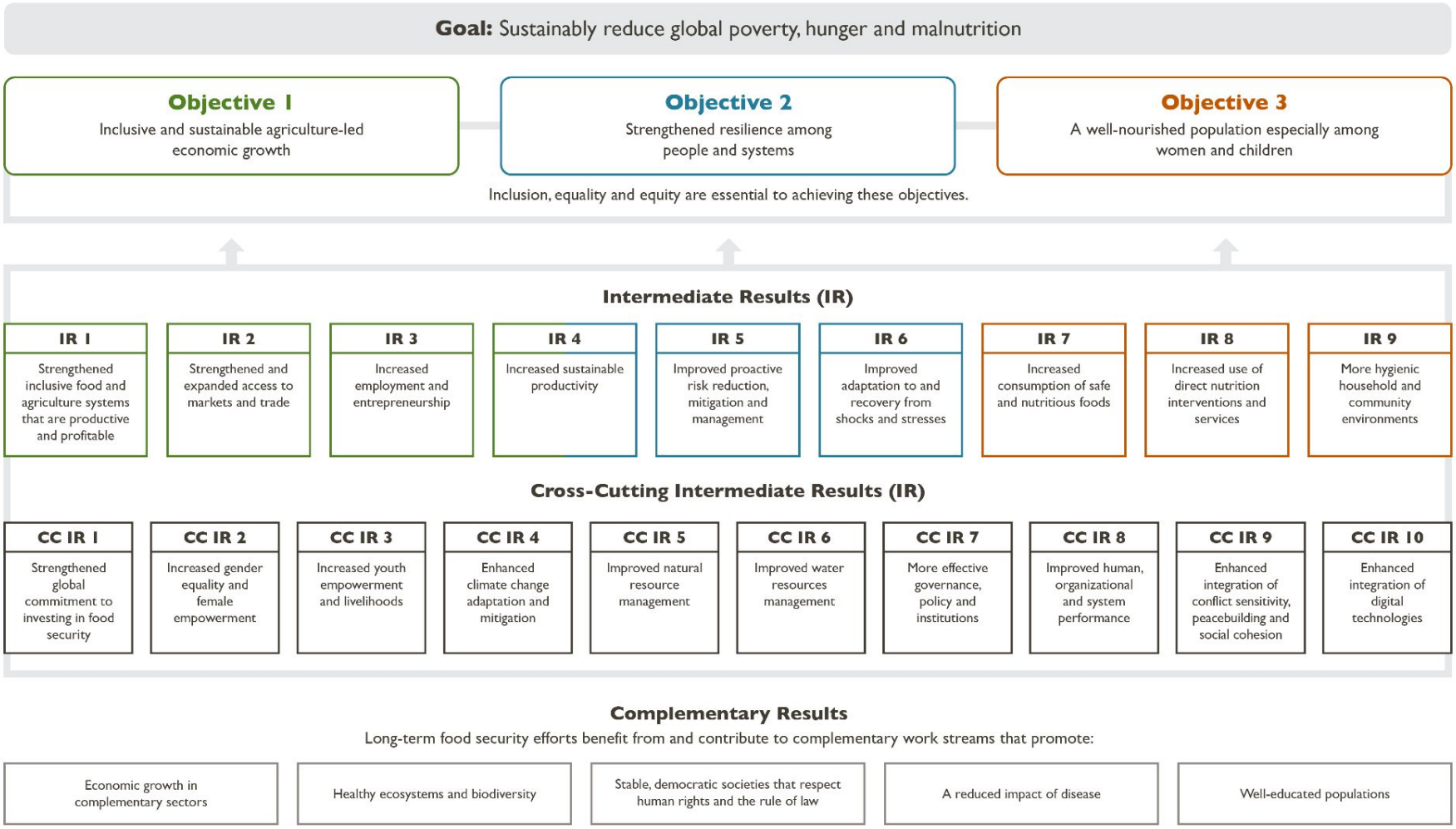
- **Conflict**: Conflict has become one of the largest drivers of food crises worldwide especially in countries affected by major crises, including conflict and climate shocks. Much of our food security programming takes place in areas characterized by tension among and within social and socioeconomic groups, social marginalization, and in some cases, outright violence. All of these factors mutually affect each other. We are emphasizing integration of conflict-sensitive, peace-building and social cohesion strategies across programming in these areas.

Goal Strategies

External factors continued:

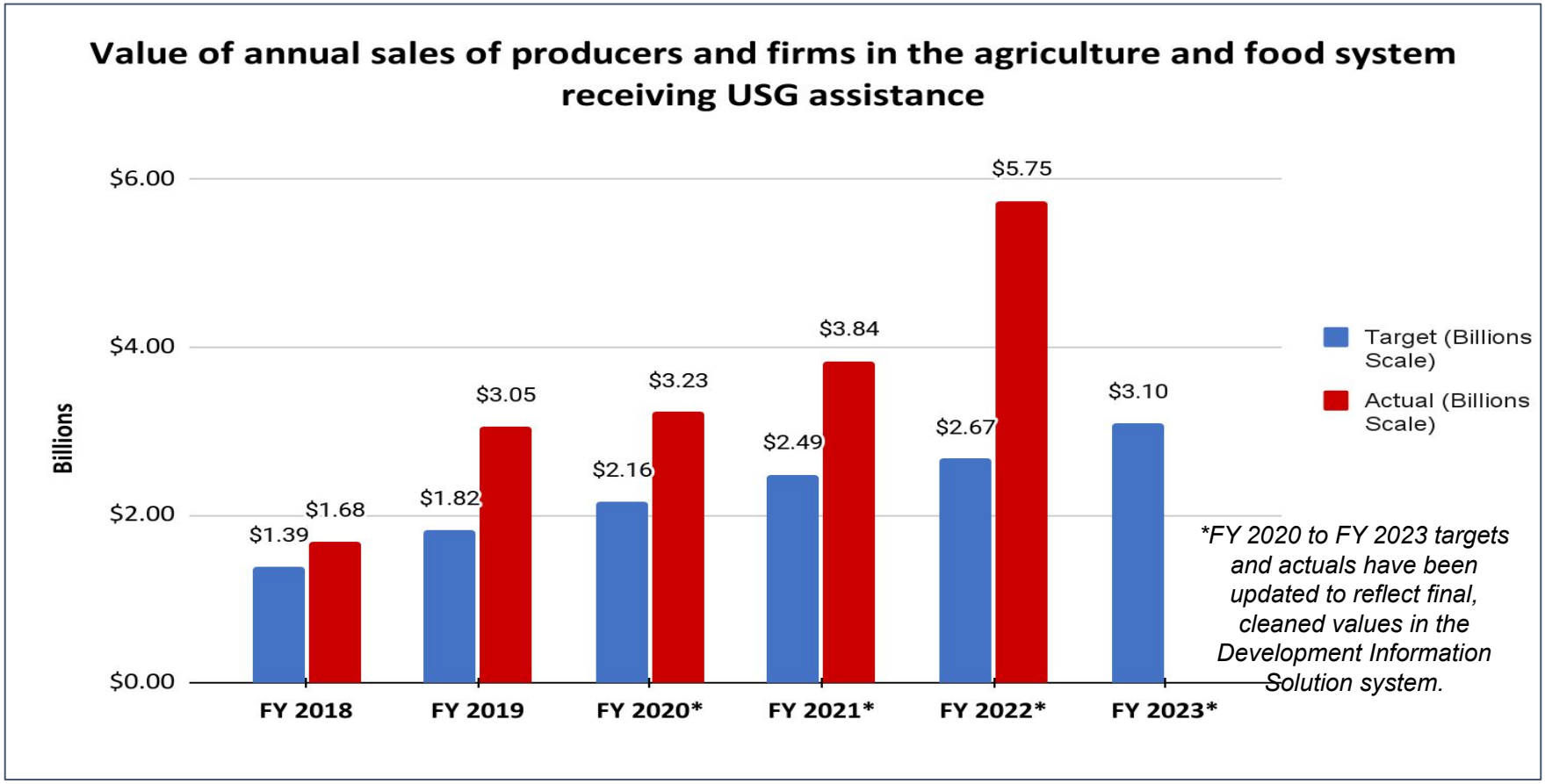
- **Putin's war in Ukraine:** The impacts of Putin's war are being felt far beyond Ukraine's borders, with huge implications for global food security and nutrition, especially for countries already vulnerable to rising hunger. The conflict continues to raise concerns due to reduced food and fertilizer supplies and subsequent price increases in these commodities, along with fuel. If not mitigated, these price increases on food and commodities will likely diminish crop productivity and reduce incomes, further undermining families' abilities to access nutritious food. This could result in significant increases in global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. USAID will leverage the FTF initiative to respond and blunt the impacts of the crisis in Ukraine.

Goal Strategies


Goal: Sustainably reduce global poverty, hunger and malnutrition
Objective 1
Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth
Objective 2
Strengthened resilience among people and systems
Objective 3
A well-nourished population especially among women and children
Inclusion, equality and equity are essential to achieving these objectives.
Intermediate Results (IR)
IR 1
Strengthened inclusive food and agriculture systems that are productive and profitable
IR 2
Strengthened and expanded access to markets and trade
IR 3
Increased employment and entrepreneurship
IR 4
Increased sustainable productivity
IR 5
Improved proactive risk reduction, mitigation and management
IR 6
Improved adaptation to and recovery from shocks and stresses
IR 7
Increased consumption of safe and nutritious foods
IR 8
Increased use of direct nutrition interventions and services
IR 9
More hygienic household and community environments
Cross-Cutting Intermediate Results (IR)
CC IR 1
Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security
CC IR 2
Increased gender equality and female empowerment
CC IR 3
Increased youth empowerment and livelihoods
CC IR 4
Enhanced climate change adaptation and mitigation
CC IR 5
Improved natural resource management
CC IR 6
Improved water resources management
CC IR 7
More effective governance, policy and institutions
CC IR 8
Improved human, organizational and system performance
CC IR 9
Enhanced integration of conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding and social cohesion
CC IR 10
Enhanced integration of digital technologies
Complementary Results
Long-term food security efforts benefit from and contribute to complementary work streams that promote:
Economic growth in complementary sectors
Healthy ecosystems and biodiversity
Stable, democratic societies that respect human rights and the rule of law
A reduced impact of disease
Well-educated populations

Source: U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2022-2026.

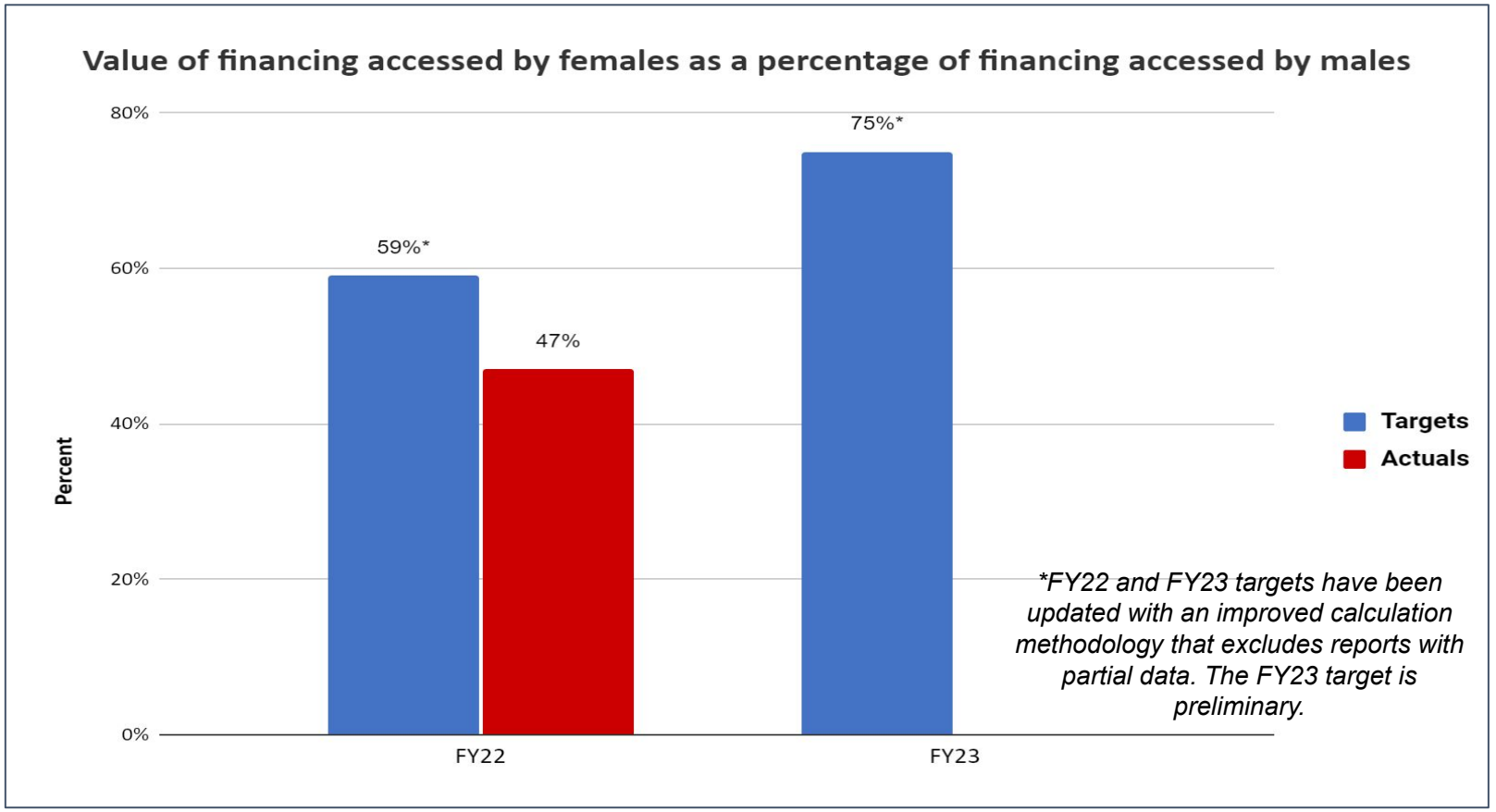
Key Indicators



Deviation narrative:
USAID exceeded its FY 2022 target because a large agricultural extension and advisory services activity in Nigeria achieved $1.15 billion more in sales than they targeted. They exceeded their target because a higher-than-anticipated number of farmers applied the most improved practices (MIPs) promoted by the activity's assisted firms, and because of higher-than-anticipated impacts on yields and sales from farmer's application of the MIPs. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), an FTF interagency partner, reported actual sales of more than $1.2 billion in FY 2022 for which they had not set targets, due to the nature and structure of those programs.

Rationale: The value (in U.S. dollars) of sales from producers and firms in targeted markets that receive USG assistance is a proxy measure of the competitiveness of those actors. This measurement also helps track strengthened and expanded access to markets and progress toward engagement by producers and firms throughout the value-chain. Strengthened and expanded access to markets is essential to achieving inclusive, sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth, which, in turn, will reduce poverty and thus achieve the goal.

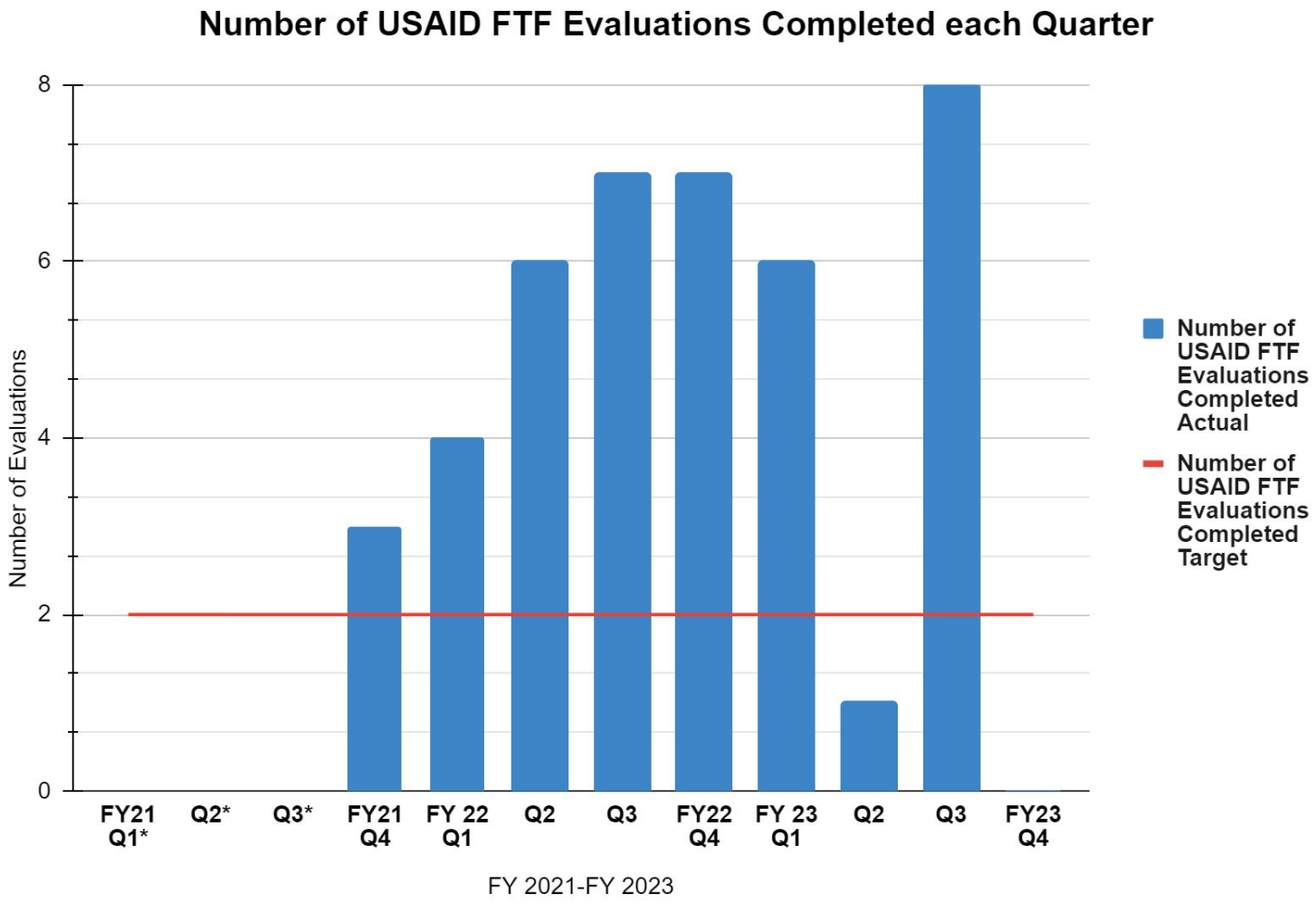
Key Indicators



Deviation narrative: USAID successfully reached more women than men with financing in FY 2022. However, the average value of financing accessed by men continued to outpace that accessed by women, which resulted in women accessing only $0.47 for each dollar accessed by men. Moving forward, USAID will redouble its efforts to increase the value of financing that is accessed by the greater numbers of women that USAID reaches.

Rationale: This indicator sums the total U.S. dollar value of debt (both cash and in-kind loans) and non-debt financing, such as equity financing, disbursed during the reporting year as a result of USG-assistance to producers (individual farmers, fishers, cooperatives, etc.), input suppliers, transporters, processors, other Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and larger enterprises that are in a targeted agricultural value chain and are participating in a USG-funded activity. USG assistance may consist of technical assistance, insurance coverage, guarantee provision, or other capacity-building and market-strengthening activities to producers, organizations and enterprises. The indicator counts the value of non-debt financing and both cash and non-cash lending disbursed to the participant, not financing merely committed (e.g., loans in process, but not yet available to the participant). Values greater than 100 percent mean that females are accessing more than $1 for every $1 of financing accessed by males as a result of FTF.

Key Indicators



**Note: In FY 2021, reporting for this indicator paused due to the change in Administrations.*

Rationale: This indicator tracks the number of FTF evaluations uploaded to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) each quarter.

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from Last Quarter	Owner	Comments
FTF Target Country Selection Indicators Finalized and Consultations Completed	Q1 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PO**	
FTF Target Countries Tentatively Selected/Approved by FTF Interagency Community	Q2 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PO**	USAID selected the following new FTF target countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The FTF Interagency Community approved the selection.
FTF Activity Design Guidance Consultations Completed	Q2 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PAE**	USAID changed the name of the FTF Technical Guidance, to the FTF Activity Design Guidance.
FTF Target Countries Approved by NSC and Announced Publicly	Q3 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PO**	National Security Council approved the eight new FTF target counties. In June 2022, USAID officially announced the selection.
FTF Target Country Plan Guidance Finalized	Q3 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/OCS**	USAID finalized the Country Plan Guidance and rolled it out to new and existing target countries and the FTF interagency during the first week of October 2022.
Evidence Gap Maps (EGMs) Finalized	Q4 FY 2022	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PAE**	USAID finalized and posted four EGMs (Resilience; Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene; Agriculture-led Growth; and Nutrition) in Q3 FY23. Held an agency-wide brown bag on the EGMs on June 13, 2023. A public facing webinar will take place July 19th which will wrap up EGM activity.
FTF Target Country Plans Updated/Finalized	Q1 FY 2023	Delayed	Expected completion, FY 2023 Q4	**RFS/OCS**	USAID will complete this milestone in Q4 FY23, as opposed to Q1 FY 2023, to allow Missions to focus on programming supplemental funding in Q1 FY 2023 and provide time for Missions to apply the October 2022 Country Plan Guidance.
FTF Activity Design Guidance Updated	Q2 FY 2023	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PAE**	All Activity Design Guidance documents written, cleared and posted on publicly accessible website.
Pilot influence and leverage measurement completed as well as a formative evaluation involving case studies	Q3 FY 2023	Delayed	Expected completion, FY 2023 Q4	**RFS/PAE RFS/PO**	USAID experienced delays recruiting and onboarding three Missions for the case study phase (phase 1) of the study. USAID completed the recruitment process in Q3 and began collecting data in the first country, Kenya. USAID will complete collecting data for Phase 1 in Q4.
USAID/RFS to complete at least one bureau-wide Pause and Reflect event to consider new evidence	Q4 FY 2023	Completed	Completed	**RFS/PAE**	USAID/RFS had Pause and Reflect presentations by Offices and Centers at the end of March 2023. In April 2023, USAID discussed and decided on evidence and proposed actions from the presentations.

Narrative – FY 2023 Q3

In FY 2023 Q3, USAID exceeded the target for the number of FTF evaluations. A total of eight FTF evaluations were reported against a target of two FTF evaluations per quarter. This brings the rolling total for FY 2023 to 15. This indicator tracks the number of evaluations a Mission or partner uploads to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) within the quarter time frame. USAID investigated but was unable to identify a causal factor that explains why USAID greatly exceeded its target.

In FY 2023 Q3, USAID finalized and posted four evidence gap maps (EGMs): Resilience; Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene; Agriculture-led Growth; and Nutrition. Two informational sessions were held to provide guidance about the finalized ERMS: 1) On June 13, 2023, USAID held an agency-wide brown bag; and 2) on July 19, 2023, USAID held a public facing webinar to explain the wrap up of the EGM activity.

In FY 2023 Q1, USAID commissioned a study to better understand its influence and leverage with stakeholders to catalyze change. The study has two goals – 1) to conduct a formative evaluation tracing the pathways through which influence and leverage occur; and 2) to use that information to create a set of metrics and associated instruments and methodology that USAID Missions and operating units can implement. The study currently focuses on FTF activities and initiatives, but can potentially have broader implications. In Q2, USAID completed the co-creation. USAID began data collection on the case study phase of this study in Q3. Three Missions—Kenya, Nigeria, and Honduras—agreed to participate in this phase. USAID plans to collect data for the case studies in Q4.

USAID/RFS had Pause and Reflect presentations to consider new evidence at the end of FY 2023 Q2, and held further discussions and decisions on evidence and proposed actions in April 2023. Because of these actions, USAID achieved the milestone ahead of schedule during FY 2023 Q3 rather than in Q4.

Data Accuracy & Reliability

USAID collects data to support annual indicators for the APG on Resilience and Food Security from all FTF countries and USG interagency partners, to the extent they select to use key measures and report their data, and capture results within and outside the Zones of Influence (ZOI). The Agency compiles them in the Development Information Solution (DIS), and updates them annually.

FTF reporting in DIS is part of an interagency effort to consolidate USG reporting on FTF activities. Twelve USG agencies work together on food security efforts for FTF and seven of those agencies contribute indicator data to DIS, including USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps, the U.S. African Development Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation, and the Department of Treasury for reporting from our multilateral partners, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

FTF verifies performance data using Data-Quality Assessments (DQAs), and the data must meet standards of validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness. Each USAID Operating Unit must document the methodology used to conduct the DQAs. DQA and data-source records are maintained in the Performance Management Plans, as described in USAID's Automated Directive System (ADS) Chapter 201.3.5.7, https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/201.pdf).

To ensure the quality of data, USAID works closely with the USG interagency and our implementing partners to review and validate. While preliminary data on APG annual indicators actuals for the previous fiscal year and updated targets are available by December of that calendar year, to ensure data quality, USAID does not report on APG annual indicators until final cleaned data are available in April of the next calendar year.

Data Limitations

Only values reported against the 'male' and 'female' sex disaggregate under EG.3.2-27 are used to calculate the APG indicator "*Average value per capita of agriculture-related financing received by females as a percentage of the value per capita of agriculture-related financing received by males as a result of USG assistance*". However, in addition to male and female sex disaggregate options, 'mixed' and 'disaggregates not available' (DNA) are also disaggregation options for EG.3.2-27. For example, if there is more than one proprietor, and if proprietors are a mix of females and males, the 'mixed' disaggregate is used. In certain cases, the proportion of 'mixed' and DNA may be large, and female and male disaggregates may consequently comprise a small proportion of the total value of financing accessed. A small number of mechanisms / countries usually drives the proportion of results that are not disaggregated. USAID is implementing several actions to decrease the proportion of non-disaggregated results reported under the indicator, including increased emphasis on these requirements in the annual training sessions with Implementing Partners (IPs) and USAID staff on FTF reporting, clearly including a step for our RFS/Office of Country Support to look for these disaggregates in our annual review of FTF reporting, and running reports to identify FTF activities with high levels of non-disaggregated results and following up with those IPs and Missions directly during our annual review.

EG.3.2-27 counts debt and non-debt financing, and sex disaggregates are layered under each type of financing accessed. Therefore, although rare, females and males may be double-counted if they accessed both debt and non-debt financing.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Contributing programs to the Food Security and Resilience APG include a range of efforts from across the USG that support the Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) 2022-2026. See Annex 1: Agency-specific Implementation Plans of the GFSS.

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

Congress supported USG food security efforts by enacting the Global Food Security Act of 2016. The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022 reauthorized food security appropriations through FY 2028. The process to develop the USG's GFSS included external consultations with non-governmental, U.S. universities, and private-sector stakeholders. USAID, with its interagency partners, continues to engage with Congress and other stakeholders on the implementation of the GFSS. In FY 2022 and beyond, this will include the completion of country plans for FTF target countries; the further development of stakeholder-collaboration platforms; and refinement of the monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach to track progress and facilitate the sharing of learning and best practices. The development of the plans will be led by interagency teams at Post who will be asked to consult widely with their host country counterparts, civil society, private sector actors. Following from the updated GFSS, the plans will include a focus on marginalized and underrepresented groups and they will be engaged in the consultation process as appropriate.